

Mon Aug 12/2

I have been very patient my Dear Sister
and waited at least ten days longer than I might
reasonably  a letter from you, but none
has yet arrived. I begin to grow uneasy at the
unusual silence. - Charles Brew has not written either -
Sarah whose hopes are most buoyant, conjectures that
you may be on the road, and are going to give us an
agreeable surprise, she & Elizabeth Blair have so many
bright visions afloat in which you are always conspi-
cuous that they talk themselves into the belief that they
will all be realized, and I almost regret that I cannot
cheat myself into the same persuasion - but when one
has trodden so long the beaten path of life, it is hard
trusting to wishes that have no sure foot hold, so
pray you, give me a little ledge of hope to step on,
and be sure I shall meet you half way - and not
give place even to our glad nieces in happy parties
hithers -

I have been reading Hamilton's "Men & Manners"
and am quite provoked that he should have lent his talents
to such an unfair purpose as that of misrepresenting America
for political views - because it seems as if no English travel-
ler can speak the truth of us. Felawney has been entertained here
too, and will no doubt issue a book of characters as soon
as he crosses the Atlantic - it is quite amusing to hear our young
ladies from the sea shore & Sacramento talk of the foregone
they met with in their summer excursions -

one told me of a young Irishman just arrived in July and went down to Long branch, where a large party were collected who enjoyed themselves in their own way. and were as strong as good health good spirits and freedom from all external constraints make them. until he arrived. but he eyed them with such inquisitive glances. was so observant & sinister, that they felt whenever his attention was directed towards them, as if an invisible rod both was ready word & gesture. - and these they made as noticeable.

I went to see Mrs. Clay when she was in town, and was very kindly received by her. She spoke affectionately of you all, and there was such genuine frankness in her manner, that I felt drawn towards her, and if she had not been surrounded by the great folks of our great city should have been pleased to keep my seat as long as decorum permitted. however, I suppose Mr. C. will require longer on his return from the north, and then hope to see her again.

Should our young friend Charles Hoffman find his way to Lexington this winter let me bespeak your kind offices for him, he is on a western tour. for literary pursuits that is, he is going to write letters for publication in the American of which he is former editor. he goes through Ohio into Michigan - and return to the Ohio river. thence down to N. Orleans but his sketches will be incomplete if he omits Lexington and other towns in Kentucky. not immediately in his course & I think he has too much taste to pass them by. you will find him so agreeable & clever that I do not hesitate to put you to the trouble of entertaining him - poor Julia has not only to part with him, her chief companion, but is kept at home to nurse George, who in a deer hunt, deposited the contents of gun in his own arm. - tell Brewster when he teaches Howard to shoot, he must manage things better.

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Wm Benjamin Grath

Lexington Ky

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Grace best I will let his name be in some part of
my letter. for he loves you all so much he does not
exactly know what words are warm enough to express
himself in